GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:197
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
FIELD TRIAL OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED POTATO BY ICAR
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recently conducted any field trial of genetically engineered potato;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the time by which this variety is likely to be launched in the market; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to verify its nutritional value and toxicological contents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir. Field trial on per plant basis has been conducted by National Centre for Plant Genome Research and Central Potato Research Institute jointly at ICAR field stations as per the guidelines of the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) Government of India.

(b) Compilation of data and their analysis are in progress.

(c) After the multilocation trials on plot basis for two years, this genetically modified potato is likely to be launched in the market once it gets approved by the regulatory bodies namely RCGM and Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), Government of India Thereafter, its multiplication, supply to farmers, marketing etc., will follow eventually.

(d) The toxicological studies have been completed while the nutritional studies are underway.